

# cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

NOVEMBER 2021

## City Celebrates Opening of New Fire Station 33



**T**he City of Fairfax Fire Department has a new home. Employees and volunteers moved into the new Fire Station 33 on Sept. 22, and the public grand opening was celebrated Oct. 16. At 20,800 square feet, the three-story station on Fairfax Boulevard is more than two and a half times bigger than the station it replaced. From the air filtration system and living quarters to the stormwater management system, Fire Station 33 was designed for the 21st century.

"In addition to the health and safety aspects of the station, the living, work, and storage areas are more spacious to improve the overall quality of life for the assigned firefighters," said Fire Chief John O'Neal, who has more than 40 years of fire service experience and has worked for the city for nearly six years.

The new \$13.8 million fire station replaced the former station, which was built in 1979 and had reached the end of its life cycle. With three bays, the new station is large enough to house the department's large trucks, ambulance, and swift water rescue boats.

The emergency generator is more

powerful than the one at City Hall, so the station will continue to operate even if a storm or other disaster causes a power outage in the city.

To protect the team from vehicle exhaust, a powerful air filtration system activates when the bay doors open and vehicles start. Upon return from a fire response, staff moves through a one-way decontamination corridor, in which protective gear is removed and cleaned. These stages are designed to protect firefighters from carcinogens created by burning materials.

Well-rested team members are in the best position, both mentally and

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# CITY NEWS

## Holiday Closure and Service Information

### Tuesday, Nov. 2 - Election Day

- City government offices – open
- General District Court – closed
- DMV Select service - closed

### Thursday, Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

- City government offices - closed
- General District Court – closed
- DMV Select service – closed
- Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center - open
- Historic Blenheim - open
- CUE Bus — modified weekday service

### Wednesday, Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Holiday

- General District Court - closed at noon
- DMV Select service - ends at noon

### Thurs. Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving

- City government offices, court, DMV Select, and historic sites - closed
- CUE Bus - no service

### Friday, Nov. 26 - Day After Thanksgiving

- City government offices, court, DMV Select - closed
- CUE Bus - modified weekday service
- Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center - open
- Historic Blenheim - open

## Holiday Refuse/Recycling Collection Schedule

- Nov. 11: no service
- Nov. 12: Thursday and Friday routes collected
- Nov. 25: no service
- Nov. 26: Thursday and Friday routes collected

*Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide the week of the holiday. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837*



## General Election, Nov. 2

The General Election is Nov. 2 to elect the Virginia governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and Virginia delegates; the City of Fairfax Commissioner of the Revenue; and City Treasurer. Sample ballots are available online and at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections.

What you need to know:

- Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.; if you are in line at 7 p.m., you will be able to vote
- Wear face coverings and bring your ID.
- If you received an absentee ballot but wish to vote in-person, please bring your absentee ballot with you to the polls.
- Completed absentee ballots may be deposited in the drop box at City Hall until 7 p.m. Nov. 2
- Ballots mailed by Nov. 2 and received before noon on Nov. 5 also will be counted and included in the final results.

Info: [fairfaxva.gov/vote](http://fairfaxva.gov/vote), 703-385-7891

## Real Estate Tax Bills Mailed in November; Tax Relief Available

City of Fairfax real estate tax bills will be mailed in November, and are due Dec. 7. If you pay real estate taxes directly and have not received a tax bill, call 703-385-7900. If you receive a real estate tax bill but your mortgage company escrows the payment, please immediately forward the bill to your mortgage company. Check out the city website for information on real estate tax services, relief, and payment options.

## FAIRFAX CITY CLIPS

If you enjoy *Cityscene*, you'll love our e-newsletter, *City Clips*. Subscribe today. Scan the QR code, below, or follow *Stay Connected!* prompt on [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).



## Real Estate Tax Relief Available

The city provides real estate tax relief options to qualified senior citizens and homeowners with disabilities: basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral.

Additionally, disabled veterans (or their surviving spouses) may be eligible for real estate tax exemptions on their principal residences. Applications are due April 15, 2022. Info: [fairfaxva.gov/government/finance](http://fairfaxva.gov/government/finance), 703-359-2486



# COUNCIL REPORTER

**PLEASE NOTE:** summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) and click on "City Meetings."

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPT. 14, 2021

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, 4-3, to add the following agenda item to the consent agenda: Introduction of an appropriation resolution for \$150,000 to provide additional funding to the City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority for general support of the economic development programming activities for FY22. (*In favor: Councilmembers Lim, Ross, and Stehle, and Mayor Meyer. Opposed: Councilmembers Harmon, Miller, and Yi.*)
- Approved, 4-2, to amend the main motion to remove the following items from the work session agenda: Discussion of the John Mason Trail, and Discussion of the Oak Street sidewalk project. (*In favor: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, Miller, and Yi. Opposed: Councilmembers Ross and Stehle.*)
- Approved, unanimously, the main motion of the adoption of the agenda.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, Consideration of the 2021/22 Third-Party Special Event Run/Walk Road Closure Requests; and Consideration of a resolution approving the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund and Settlement Allocation Memorandum of Understanding.
- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the City Council meeting minutes for the June 22, 2021 regular meeting; July 6, 2021 special meeting; July 13, 2021 special meeting (*Councilmember Stehle abstained*); July 13, 2021 regular meeting (*Councilmember Stehle abstained*); and July 27, 2021 regular meeting.
- Approved, 4-3, introduction of an appropriation resolution for \$150,000 to provide additional funding to the City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority for general support of the economic development programming activities for FY22, and to waive the first reading and set the public hearing for Sept. 28, 2021. (*In favor: Councilmembers Lim, Ross, and Stehle, and Mayor Meyer. Opposed: Councilmembers Harmon, Miller, and Yi.*)

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, a request for a special use permit to allow a family home daycare with five to 12 children in the Residential Medium Zoning District at 3405 Burrows Ave., subject to conditions.
- Public hearing on the Transportation Alternatives Funding Application for University Drive Bike Lanes Project. *No action was taken.*

### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, the new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the city, the Economic Development Authority, and George Mason University,

relating to the Mason Enterprise Center-Fairfax; and authorized and directed the mayor and/or the city manager to execute the final MOA, subject to any non-substantive modifications that may be made between the parties prior to execution.

- Approved, unanimously, a resolution consenting to the fifth amended and restated Declaration of Local Emergency by the city manager (*in his capacity as director of the city Emergency Management*).

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPT. 28, 2021

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, to amend the main motion to remove from the agenda and cancel the public hearing on an appropriation resolution for \$150,000 to provide additional funding to the City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority for general support of the EDA's operations and economic development programming activities for FY22.
- Approved, unanimously, the main motion of the adoption of the agenda.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, 5-0-1, to endorse the submission of a grant application to the Transportation Alternatives Program to fund bicycle facilities on University Drive in the city. (*Approved: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Yi.*)
- Approved, unanimously: Consideration to approve the FY 2022 and FY 2023 performance contract and partnership agreement between the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Health and Development Services and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services; Introduction of an appropriation resolution for \$56,576 to fund the FY2022 office lease cost associated with the relocation of the city's Economic Development Office; and Introduction of an ordinance amending previously enacted Ordinance No. 2020-18 regarding the permanent vacating, discontinuing and closing of a portion of a city public right-of-way (Orchard Street).

### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, the city's submission of the Oak Street sidewalk and the University Drive/Layton Hall traffic signal to the Virginia Department of Transportation for Revenue Sharing Funding.
- Approved, unanimously, to deny the resolution to approve the city's submission of Phase I of the John Mason Trail Project to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for FY 27 NTVA 70% Funding.
- Approved, unanimously, to amend the motion to change a word in the resolution regarding the *Connecting Fairfax City For All — Connecting The City's Past and Present to Build a More Equitable and Inclusive Future* final report in the first "Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That..." line from "endorsed" to "accepted."
- Approved, unanimously, the main motion that the City Council approve a resolution continuing the

*continued on page 5*

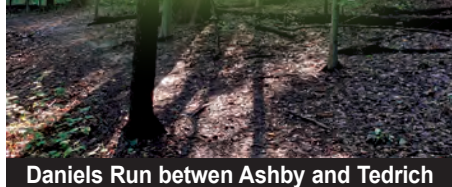


## on the trail

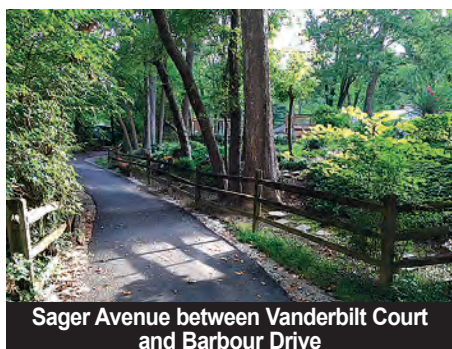


Ashby Pond

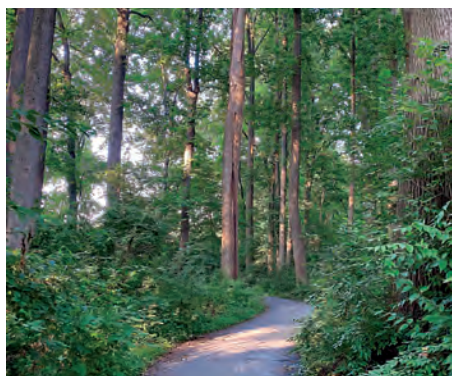
# YOUR FAVORITE TRAILS



Daniels Run between Ashby and Tedrich



Sager Avenue between Vanderbilt Court and Barbour Drive



Trail between King Kabob and Daniels Run

Get out there and explore the city's stream valleys and find new ways to get where you're going! Recently repaved trails throughout the city are accessible, safe, and fun to explore.

Fairfax City's off-street trails are a fun way to experience nature's sights, sounds, and smells. Trails connect neighborhoods to schools, shopping areas, and regional trails. They also provide a safe alternative to busy streets. In September, we asked *City Clips* (our e-newsletter) subscribers to share what their favorite trails are and why.

The Daniels Runs Trail is by far the most popular, but residents suggested a few lesser-known trails to explore.

*My favorite city trail is the one through Daniels Run Park. If you move a few yards off the trail and find a log to sit on you can almost imagine you are sitting in the center of a much larger forest. When I was a kid the woods between Country Club Hills and Fairfax Circle were totally undeveloped and an enticing, shady, play area for us. Sitting in the center of DRP is the closest we now have to duplicating that experience.*

I live at the Farrcroft community and regularly walk within my own community with sidewalks and trails. I could walk up to two miles without going out of my community at all. Also, I walk regularly the trails in Daniels Run Park with original hardwood forests. I hope Fairfax City can make all city trails connected.

*I have to say that the trail through Daniels Run Park is my favorite; it's just a block or two from my house, winds by the creek (home to many tadpoles and fish), and is home to rabbits, deer, and foxes that I've seen. What a wonderful treasure in an urban city!*

My favorite trail is the one in Daniels Run Park. It serves as an easy and pleasant route to downtown from our house near the Saint Andrews Drive terminus. There are a lot of old-growth trees flanking the trail and the stream that provide ample shade in summer,

and which serve as home for a multitude of wildlife. The air in the park is noticeably cleaner and fresher in summer due to the effect of the trees taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

*Our favorite is Kutner Park. Thanks for maintaining it.*

I like Van Dyck Park trail because it's shaded, open, and feels safe walking alone, since there are usually people in plain view or in audible distance.

*The off-shoot trails in Daniels Run Park that sort of go between Tedrich and Ashby. City needs to do a gravel bike race in this section.*

I'm a fan of the trail between King Kabob and Daniels Run, especially along the small pond by Farrcroft Drive.

*Our favorite is Ashby Pond. We like the woods, topography, and water – tucked away & quiet!*

This short section of the trail network (looking north toward Sager Avenue between Vanderbilt Court and Barbour Drive) is a favorite of mine. The homeowner whose land backs up to the trail has created an all-season garden for walkers to enjoy on the hill under the trees.

*During early and mid-2020, when COVID was first running rampant and I was isolating with my housemates in the Country Club Hills neighborhood, Daniels Run Trail was right there and it was an incredibly welcome respite from the cooped-up sameness of my days working from home. It was soothing and restoring to watch everything grow and bloom throughout the spring, and wander to explore every outlet. As an added bonus, I could ride my bike along it almost all the way to the compost center at City Hall, a much more beautiful, serene, and safe route than Old Lee Highway.*



Kutner Trail



Wilcoxon Trail





## Salt Management in the City



Business and property owners who plan to store loose or bagged salt or sand outside may not know that improper storage may harm the environment, destroy natural habitats, and pollute the Chesapeake Bay.

Salt contains chloride, which is toxic to aquatic and plant life. It corrodes equipment and damages infrastructure. Salt also contains sodium which, once it enters our waterways, is not removed by wastewater treatment or even drinking water treatment processes. Salinization of the nation's waters is a growing concern and regulatory efforts are currently underway to reduce salt inputs to the environment.

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## COUNCIL REPORTER

*continued from page 3*

implementation process for the *Connecting Fairfax City For All — Connecting The City's Past and Present to Build a More Equitable and Inclusive Future*.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approved, 5-0-1, the Sept. 8, 2021 Special Meeting minutes (*Approved: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Yi.*)

### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously, to appoint Andrew Fernandes to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and Inigo

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Francis to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

- Approved, unanimously, to reappoint Benjamin Lebron to the Environmental Sustainability Committee, and Carl Jennison to the George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board.

### CLOSED MEETING

- Approved, unanimously, to authorize and approve the settlement, on the terms and conditions outlines by the city attorney in the closed

meeting, of prospective eminent domain proceeding involving the Northfax West project, and specifically a portion of the project on and adjacent to property owned by Brown's Mazda; to authorize the city attorney to finalize the negotiations and any settlement agreement in these matters; and to authorize the city attorney, the city manager, and the mayor, as applicable, to execute any documentation necessary to finalize these matters.

FAIRFAX CITY

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**Holiday MARKET**

**FIRST 2 WEEKENDS OF DECEMBER**  
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## LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

Upcoming programs and performances are listed in the events calendar at [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).



### ArtScreen – Nov. 5

Watch “Big Night,” 1996-R, at the Sherwood Community Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. Film starts at 7:30 p.m.



### Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series – Nov. 12

*Debajo del mismo cielo*  
RÓMEZ3arts performs at 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall. Registration required.



### Next Reflex Dance Collective – Nov. 13

*Flight* will be performed at 5 p.m. at Ashby Pond Conservatory Site.



## Kamp Washington Charrette

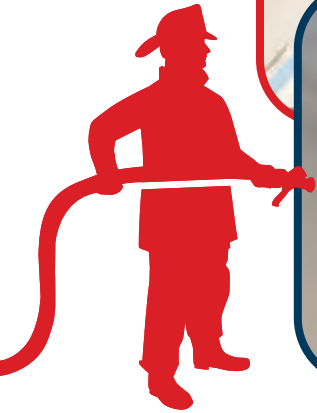
Join Community Development and Planning staff and the project consultant team, led by Cunningham Quill Architects, on Nov. 18 for a public charrette for the Kamp Washington Activity Center, the area in and directly around the triangle formed by Fairfax Boulevard, Lee Highway, and Jermantown Road. At this meeting, attendees will review early conceptual designs for the Kamp Washington study area, engage with the project team, and provide feedback that will influence the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan.

Details about the meeting, including format and time, are still being finalized. Please visit the project page at [engage.fairfaxva.gov](http://engage.fairfaxva.gov) for the latest information on the charrette. Please subscribe for project updates through the Engage Fairfax page.



## New Fire Station 33

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physically, to respond to emergencies. The new station replaces the traditional bunkroom with seven dormitories, with two beds apiece. The sleeping quarters are connected to the Westnet alerting system, which sends an alarm to only the rooms where on-duty members are resting. "This feature helps reduce sleep deprivation commonly experienced by firefighters needlessly awakened for calls their units are not dispatched on," said Capt. John Jeniec, Jr., who has served the city for nearly 15 years.

The building was designed to grow with the future workforce. The gender-neutral locker room is outfitted with six private bathroom suites. "This allows for all the members stationed at Fire Station 33 to use 100% of the space, 100% of the time," said Jeniec.

Team members now have modern office space and training rooms. Large windows allow natural light to illuminate the interior. The weight room, laundry, spacious kitchen, and comfortable lounge area will keep the team fit, fed, and ready to respond.

For Capt. Jonithan Brantley, an 18-year veteran with the department, the most exciting thing is being back in the community after spending two years at the temporary station behind the tank farm. "The new station is front and center. People see us and know we're ready. Joggers wave as they pass by, and residents drop in to say hello. We're all very happy to be back where we should be," he said.

Rookie team members and seasoned veterans alike can train using the rope rescue props attached to the bay walls. A simulator on the second floor provides training opportunities for accessing enclosed spaces, and anchor points are installed on the third floor balcony for rope rescue training.

In addition to the health of personnel, Fire Station 33 was built with environmental health in mind. Stormwater management has been greatly improved on the site. A



## FHS Fall Play

Come watch talented young actors perform *Puffs*, a Harry Potter story told from the perspective of an orphaned boy named Wayne Hopkins – a tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. The FX Players will perform the play three times Nov. 11-13. Shows start at 7 p.m.

"It can be really easy in life to feel unimportant, like a side character," says director Chris Whitney. "Although this play is filled with jokes and laughter, it's really about embracing your own story and being proud of that."

FHS students Hank Hawkins and Megan Jones have the lead roles of Wayne Hopkins and Madeleine Tyler, respectively, and Oliver Rivers is being played by Trevor Sloan. "I love the script because it is just plain funny, but it also has a strong emotional core, so I think it'll really resonate with people," says Hawkins.

*Puffs* is a fun, upbeat show that follows a story that everyone knows! Purchase tickets at [fxplayers.org](http://fxplayers.org); \$10/adults, \$7/FHS students.

vegetated roof filters stormwater and reduces runoff. A large, underground vault captures and stores runoff from the parking lot before slowly releasing the water into the adjacent creek. Used water from inside the bay passes through an oil and grit separator before it enters the sanitary sewer system. Dirty kitchen water is routed through a trap to remove fats, oils, and grease.

Energy-efficient features include extensive use of LED lighting, automated lighting that shuts off when rooms are vacant, heating and cooling controls in individual bedrooms, a modern HVAC system, and radiant heating built into the floor of the apparatus bay.

"It is truly a station the City of Fairfax Fire Department, City of Fairfax, and the community should be very proud of," said Jeniec.

Mayor David L. Meyer (david.meyer@fairfaxva.gov)

## City Council

Joseph D. Harmon (joseph.harmon@fairfaxva.gov)

So P. Lim (so.lim@fairfaxva.gov)

Janice B. Miller (janice.miller@fairfaxva.gov)

D. Thomas Ross (tom.ross@fairfaxva.gov)

Jon R. Stehle Jr. (jon.stehle@fairfaxva.gov)

Sang H. Yi (sang.yi@fairfaxva.gov)

City Manager Rob Stalzer (rob.stalzer@fairfaxva.gov)



**contact us**  
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Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication.

Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

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## HELPING HANDS

### SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY, MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

##### Board of Building Code Appeals

(one mechanical or plumbing vacancy),

**Commission on the Arts** (two city resident vacancies, and one George Mason University representative vacancy),

**Community Appearance Committee**

(five resident vacancies, one garden club representative), **Environmental**

**Sustainability Committee** (one vacancy), **Regional – Fairfax Alcohol**

**Safety Action Program Policy Board**

(one vacancy), **Parks and Recreation**

**Advisory Board** (one vacancy), **Personnel Advisory Board** (one

vacancy), **Board of Equalization** (one

vacancy for alternate member).

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**Fairfax High School 3501 Lion Run**

## Salt Management in the City

continued from page 7

In the City of Fairfax, the storm drainage system and the wastewater system are separate. Rainwater and melting snow that enter the storm drainage system are not treated at a

wastewater treatment plant. All salt or sand bags should be covered and contained and placed away from any storm drains or conveyances. Download the salt and sand storage guidance at [fairfaxcounty.gov](http://fairfaxcounty.gov) (search "snow removal").